GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1052
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Afforestation
Singh Shri Bharat

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the land area, in hectares on which afforestation has been carried out by the Government in lieu of the trees cut down for construction of national highways in the country during each of the last three years; State-wise;
(b) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that artificial afforestation is not lasting and cannot be compared with the depleted or diminished natural forests; and
(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Under the guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the stipulation of planting of trees in multiples of the number of felled trees, is prescribed as an ameliorative measure, in-lieu of felling of trees as a consequence of construction of national highways, the quantum of multiples stipulated varies from State to State. State wise details of compensatory afforestation in lieu of diverted forest land including for roads, is given in Annexure.

(b) & (c) Artificial afforestation carried out under compensatory afforestation provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 does not substitute natural forests. Yet, keeping in view the imperatives of development, and the crucial role played by development projects including highways in the process of development, permission for diversion of forest land is granted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 only in cases where diversion of forest land is inevitable. Compensatory afforestation is undertaken to minimize the loss of impact of forest diversion in due course of time.

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